

Goodwin PTO Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2013
Goodwin Music Room 6:30-7:30

Present:

Recorder: Mary Dudas

Call to order: 6:35

Board of Education:

Mark Laplaca from the Mansfield Board of Education (BOE) spoke first. The BOE meets twice a month the public is invited to speak at the beginning of meetings or at end of meeting. There are nine members of BOE and Susannah Everett is the Goodwin Rep from the BOE. The BOE has decided to record meetings: go to website and click on audio:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/13915/11152/13569/default.aspx>

Declining enrollment means higher cost per pupil; cost per pupil has stayed the same for four years despite declining enrollment. This year the BOE asked for an increase in budget of 1.7%; the town council asked for another year at 0% increase. A compromise motion to increase the budget \$200,000 was passed. A petition was then circulated to vote on the budget and the budget increase failed, which means another year of 0% increase.

In April the Town Council will begin to discuss budget. May 2014 is the budget meeting that will affect school budget. The PTO cannot use the school or its facilities to do anything to lobby for a position on voting, but we can use the school to remind people to vote. On our own the PTO is free to lobby on behalf of an increase in school spending. Another year of 0% increases will affect services more noticeably than the past years of 0% have because there is nothing minor left to cut.

The BOE rotates their meeting among the schools, their first meeting is Thursday, Oct 10 at 7pm at Goodwin. Mark LaPlaca can be contacted at: Laplacam@mansfieldct.org.

Mark LaPlaca and Fred Baruzzi left the meeting

Officer's Reports:

President's Report:

Tax id: Kristin will work on the tax id now that the fair is over. Julie mentioned that a Southeast parent might be willing to help us. Julie will give Kristin the contact information.

Vice President's Report:

Square1 Art: Tricia will ask Mrs. Anger to continue with 3 and 4 and the PTO will figure out how to sponsor a community event for pre-K through 2 in order to complete Square1. We may ask for volunteers from UCONN.

Zumba: Tricia has contacted Kim Gates to get dates that she can do it.

Treasurer's Report:

With the fun fair just completed Mandy did not have full report, but is confident that we made a profit on the fun fair.

Secretary's Report:

Bylaws: Our bylaws require that we review them every 2 years. This needs to be done this year. Kristin and Mary will work on this, but would like a third person to help.

Backpack Brigade: Mary spoke with Laura to work out a time frame for Backpack Brigade. Mary reported that she was having trouble getting WAIM to return her calls. Mandy said that she would contact them to find out what kinds of donations they would like in January since it is not the beginning of the school year.

Fun Fair: At the Open House Deb Adamczyk, Karri and John Prandy, and Mary Dudas voted to increase the fun fair budget to \$2242.

Principal's Report:

Shamim Patwa, the new school psychologist, suggested that we host an event with Ruth Freeman who provides parenting advice. Her presentation is about 2 hours. The dates that Ruth gave Shamim are Oct 3, 10, 24, and 29; since October is a bit busy we asked for a few dates in November to consider. If we host an event we will ask for preregistration so that we can get an idea of how many kids will be there in order to provide babysitters and pizza.

PTO Business

Yearbook: Meghan will ask for room parents again this year. We will ask that teachers get their pictures taken when students have picture taken on picture day; first grade teachers will go first because they are leaving for field trip.

Harvest Festival: Meghan would like to have the Harvest Festival this year; she requested a budget of \$100. Kristin made a motion to approve that request, Tricia seconded, and the request was approved unanimously. Meghan suggested that we use the leftover baskets from the fun fair for an auction. Fun fair will be October 26th. Shelby requested that we try to find favors other than candy for the kids.

T-shirts are in and we sold about 10 at the fun fair.

Book fair: Julie reported that we grossed about \$1833; with a net profit of about \$300.

Open House: A fun time had by all.

Fun fair feedback:

Christine (Games) reported that she liked the outdoors as it allowed more space and more active play. She did not like Fridays it required her to take day off from work to set up and many agreed that Friday lowered turnout. She also reported that we need volunteers to follow guidelines for game prizes for fundraising purposes; and in the future she would like to contact volunteers in advance to make sure that they know what to.

Mandy (Events) would have liked the layout for set-up when they started. In the future the reptile guy will need to have an enclosed area or make this a part of a general admission charge. She also suggested that in the future it would be nice to know what events got the most tickets--this year they were lumped together before we could count them.

Ellen and Sara (Volunteers) were not at the meeting and so feedback will be solicited from them at a later date.

Meghan (Food) reported that the electrical was a problem. A Goodwin employee stayed late to fix the electricity and Kristin will write him a thank you card.

Shelby (Silent Auction) reported that we made \$986 total and \$513 has been collected. Shelby will send thank you cards and get reimbursement from Mandy. Many people felt that having the Auction by the food / entrance would have increased the number of bids that we got.

Kristen (Advertising) was not there and so feedback will be solicited from her at a later date. Someone suggested that in the future it would be nice to post or copy and distribute the pricing and layout in advance.

We discussed holding the fair on a Saturday a week later in September 27, but this will conflict with another school fair. Kristin will find out their date for next year and we will schedule ours on a date that does not conflict.

Updating PTO job descriptions and procedures: We are in the process of updating the job description of the Executive Board and the procedures for all events. Members who have chaired events recently will be asked for their help in updating all of our procedures.

Thanksgiving: Kristin will either chair or find a volunteer to chair Thanksgiving.

Adjourned 8:25